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# Wheels Up!

CIVIL AIR PATROL • NEW YORK WING



**NY Wing Pilots Re-Enact History  
In World War II-Vintage Plane**



## ***Wheels Up!***

SUMMER 2003

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New York Wing  
Civil Air Patrol  
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

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Col. AUSTYN GRANVILLE Jr.

## ***In the Left Seat***

# One Team, One Wing



*To the Cadet and Senior Members of the New York Wing:*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of ***“Wheels Up!”***, and to the 2003 Wing Conference, for those of you attending. Accept my sincere thanks for all that you do: Your time and talents are paramount to the health of the Wing and CAP.

I view the Wing and its membership as in a symbiotic relationship. Without Squadrons, there would be no Groups; in fact, there would be no Wing! In contrast, without a Wing Headquarters, there would be no Squadrons or Groups, either, as the Wing is CAP's basic Corporate level. Our function is administrative and also involves making sure that all units are in compliance with National

Regulations as well as Region and Wing policies.

If we do not have the proper reports – from you – to represent the outstanding work that this Wing does, it's not the Headquarters that fails, it's the WHOLE Wing. As your primary representative, both my staff and I want to show excellence by the membership, from Operations to Cadet Program to Safety to Public Affairs to Logistics to Finance to Professional Development and all points in between! Everything you do counts, but unless we see it documented, it won't count at all.

I've mentioned before: **“One Team - One Wing”**. If we all do what we should be doing, we will succeed.

### ABOUT THE COVER

*World War II-era DC-4 on the tarmac at Oneida County Airport, immediately following a “Berlin Airlift” mission by Air Force retirees and CAP pilots to drop candy on school children near Syracuse.*

# Back to the Future

## Training for Homeland Defense

CAP's World War II exploits, chasing German subs and protecting the nation's coastline, are legendary.

With the U.S. facing terrorist threats today, the New York Wing is integrating an evolving homeland security role into its three-fold mission to promote aerospace education, mentor youth, and provide such emergency services as search-and-rescue.

In 2002 and 2003, training has focused on reconnaissance with air-to-ground image transmission, and both sustained and rapid response aerial and ground reconnaissance.

At the same time, the Wing:

- routinely responded to distress beacons, including one that had washed ashore on a beach and was brought home by a family out walking the dog.
- conducted several workshops such as Squadron Leadership School and an Emergency Services Mission Management Seminar.



*Maj. Ed Kopp, pilot, and Capt. Mike Lazar, co-pilot, give enthusiastic smiles just prior to flying a recon aircraft during NY Wing training.*



*Capt. Lois Nice prepares to upload digital images to the Operations Center during Operation Cold Snap.*

## 'Operation Empire Eagle Watch' Tests Communications, Sustained Recon

The Wing conducted homeland security training on Sept. 30, deploying 15 aircraft and a similar number of ground crews. Two aircraft from the Vermont Wing also joined the exercise, designed to test the Civil Air Patrol's ability to conduct a sustained reconnaissance mission primarily along the U.S.-Canadian border.

Dubbed "Operation Empire Eagle Watch," the day-long exercise staggered air crews for 2- to 3-hour sorties over 50-mile target areas, explained Lt. Col. Steve Perta, director of operations. Lt. Colonel Perta crafted the training exercise along with Lt. Col. Bill Hughes, who was incident coordinator.

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*As director of emergency services, Lt. Col. Bill Hughes helps coordinate ES training.*



“We wanted to test our ability to do sorties from self-sustaining bases,” Lt. Col. Perta said. It worked well at two bases, where ground support provided food and beverages, but a third base that depended on a local airport restaurant experienced “delays in getting crews back into the air.”

As crews returned, photos were uploaded to the internet and shared among base commands for coordination.

## Wing Practices Image Transmission For Conference at West Point

Two air crews practiced transmitting photos via radio waves over Oneida County Airport near Utica on Nov. 15, the day before a scheduled presentation on CAP’s capabilities to an Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer Conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

One aircraft did photo reconnaissance, with Maj. Ed Kopp, pilot, Capt. Mike Lazar, co-pilot, and 1st Lt. Bill Jones, observer-photographer. The other plane, flown by Lt. Col. Schiele Brewer and Lt. Col. Al Larmann Jr., was outfitted with a relay repeater to extend the reach of the image transmission by a couple hundred miles. At the ground station were Lt. Col. Steve Perta, di-

To test “our communications capability,” Lt. Col. Perta noted, “we used three high-flying relay aircraft so that all the bases and air crews could be in constant communication.”

Some 150 personnel participated, including cadets, with base camps located at Perry-Warsaw Airport, Town of Perry, Wyoming County; Clinton County Airport at Plattsburgh, and Oswego County Airport in Fulton.

rector of operations, and Maj. Gerald Marketos, commander of Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron.

Over the next half hour several images were captured on a high resolution camcorder and transmitted, some direct to the ground station and others via the airborne repeater. Each image slowly appeared on a TV monitor. Images – stamped with GPS location, time and date – could be stored on tape or computer.

The plan was to do a live demonstration for the West Point meeting. When snowy weather grounded the flights on Nov. 16, Lt. Col. Perta went ahead with a PowerPoint briefing on CAP’s reconnaissance image transmission capability.



**1st Lt. Bill Jones sets up the portable image transmission unit in the back seat of a CAP Cessna for NY Wing recon and air-to-ground image transmission training.**



**Lt. Col. Schiele Brewer and Al Larmann Jr. took part in air-to-ground image transmission training prior to CAP’s West Point presentation.**



**Capt. Lois Nice and Lt. Col. Steve Perta in the cockpit during Operation Cold Snap.**

## **NATURE PROVIDES COLD, CAP ADDS SNAP**

### **Wing Successfully Tests Rapid Response Recon**

New York Wing conducted Rapid Response Missions Feb. 14-15 as part of a state-wide Homeland Security exercise.

Given a practice scenario in which authorities receive a credible threat of imminent terrorist activity, aircrews from Long Island to Western New York, plus some ground teams, were deployed to survey and photograph potential terrorist targets, including power plants, windmill farms, dams on reservoirs, and hospitals. One aircrew also looked for ice jams on the Saranac River as a courtesy to Plattsburgh city officials concerned about flooding.

Dubbed "Operation Cold Snap," the exercise was a timed one, explained Lt. Col. Steve Perta, director of operations. "From the time we got the call, we were timed on how fast our crews were deployed, and how long it took to complete the

mission and transmit images and information to a central base of operations." In a real threat, images and information could go directly to federal and state authorities for analysis.

Lt. Col. William Hughes, director of emergency services and exercise coordinator, said crews were "directed to sites similar to those that they may be called on for assessment during an actual event."

Nine Groups, which oversee 58 squadrons, took part. Some crews were delayed when they had to de-ice planes, he said, and one airport was snowed in.

"Overall, it went very well," Lt. Col. Hughes noted. "Mother nature sure provided the 'cold', with temperatures hovering around zero, and CAP provided the 'snap' with the photos and prompt response."



*News media covered Operation Cold Snap in several areas.*

*ABOVE: ABC and NBC affiliates in Utica caught the action at Oneida County Airport and interviewed Lt. Col. Steve Perta.*

*BELOW: The Times Herald Record snapped this shot of 1st Lt. Rory Holmes doing a pre-flight check at Orange County Airport in Montgomery.*



### **WING PUTS TEAMS ON HIGH ALERT**

The New York Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has placed rapid response teams on high alert, coinciding with the nation's homeland security Orange Alert status, Wing

Commander Col. Austyn W. Granville Jr. said.

The teams include both air and ground crews trained in search and rescue, reconnaissance and communications.

## Satellite Picks Up Sunken Boat's Emergency Beacon; Oswego Squadron Finds Device in Home

OSWEGO – A family's discovery of an unusual object during a winter trek on a beach resulted in a search by both the U.S. Coast Guard and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in December. The object the family found was transmitting a distress signal that was picked up by search-and-rescue satellite.

"This falls under the heading of, 'you never know what you could pick up on the beach'," said Lt. Col. Steve Perta, incident commander. "The couple found the device ...while walking with their children and dog. They brought it home, not knowing what it was."

In the meantime, the Coast Guard responded to the distress beacon. But, surmising that an emergency transmitter broke away from a vessel that sunk off the coast of Oswego in Lake Ontario about a month before and activated as it washed ashore, Coast Guard personnel searched the shoreline. They found debris, but no distress beacon, so the Coast Guard contacted the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, VA to dispatch the Civil Air Patrol,

which is equipped with search-and-rescue radio tracking equipment.

Once alerted, Central New York Group dispatched the Greater Oswego County Composite Squadron.

Even though high winds and lake effect snow prevented the launch of CAP search aircraft, Lt. Colonel Perta said he was able to use satellite positioning data to direct a ground team close enough to acquire the beacon's signal and track it to a private residence.

No one was home, so the team left a note on the door. When the family returned and saw the note, they contacted Lt. Colonel Perta who told them how to deactivate the device, known as an EPIRB (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon). It is similar to Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) on aircraft.

The ground team and command post personnel included: Lt. Col. Fred Bullard, Squadron Commander; Capt. Francis Sussey, 1st. Lt. Horace Zellar, 1st. Lt. Earl Holdren, Senior Mbr. Robert LaMay, Senior Mbr. Grant Sussey.



### MILITARY SPEAKERS

Utica Composite Squadron attracted high-ranking military speakers to its 2002 annual awards banquet -- Brig. Gen. Ravindra F. Shah, M.D., state air surgeon for the New York Air National Guard; and Col. Robert K. Marr Jr. (left), commander of the Northeast Air Defense Sector (Air National Guard) in Rome.



### CROWN CIRCLE EDUCATOR

Lt. Col. Al Hulstrunk, left, shown with NY Wing Encampment Director Capt. Dan Stouch, won CAP's prestigious Crown Circle for Aerospace Education Leadership Award. He was honored April 5 in Cincinnati at the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education.



*Instructors line up to congratulate the graduates of Squadron Leadership School in Syracuse, where Col. Robert Knauff (right), 174th Fighter Wing Commander, officiated.*



## **FIGHTER WING COMMANDER OFFICIATES AT GRADUATION**

# 53 Complete Squadron Leadership School

SYRACUSE – Fifty-three men and women graduated from Civil Air Patrol Squadron Leadership School held March 1-2 at the Air National Guard's 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Hancock Field.

"The Civil Air Patrol is a vital part of the Air Force," Col. Robert Knauff, 174<sup>th</sup> commander, told the graduates, who are volunteers involved in aerospace education, cadet programs, search and rescue, and Homeland Security. "The Civil Air Patrol rounds out the Total Force with unique capabilities

and a hometown affiliation that is irreplaceable. I commend your leadership for what CAP brings to America."

The 174<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing co-hosted the Squadron Leadership School with CAP's Central New York Group, which is commanded by Maj. Thomas Carello of Syracuse.

Instructors came from both Group and Wing staffs, under the direction of school director Maj. Eric Kroon of Cassadaga and assistant director Maj. Mark Cashin of Mattydale.

Graduates (by area, last name, first name, rank, unit) are:

### **NIAGARA FALLS AREA**

Baldwin, Thomas SM,  
Niagara Falls Composite Squad.  
Evans, Ernest 2Lt, Western  
New York Group Staff

Owen, Martin SM, Niagara  
Falls Composite Squadron  
Rothberg, Diane SM, Niagara  
Falls Composite Squadron

### **DUNKIRK AREA**

Ellington, Donald 1Lt,  
Concorde Senior Squadron

### **PERRY AREA**

Gardner, Scott 1Lt, Condor  
Composite Squadron  
Stearns, Deborah 2Lt, Condor  
Composite Squadron

### **ROCHESTER AREA**

Amaud, Jean-Pierre SM,  
Rochester Composite Squadron  
Chalmers, Kevin SM,  
Rochester Composite Squadron

*Continued on Page 8*



Choquette, Aldea SM,  
 Rochester Composite Squadron  
 McKeeby, Donald 1Lt,  
 Rochester Composite Squadron  
 Nugent, Janet 2Lt, Rochester  
 Composite Squadron  
 Sheffer, Christine 2Lt,  
 Rochester Composite Squadron  
 Sheffer, Timothy 2Lt,  
 Rochester Composite Squadron  
 Welsh, Andrew Capt, New  
 York Wing Staff

#### **CANANDAIGUA AREA**

Bailey, Scott SM, Canandaigua  
 Composite Squadron  
 Hasard, Larry 1Lt, Canan-  
 daigua Composite Squadron  
 McClure, James 2Lt, Canan-  
 daigua Composite Squadron  
 McKelvey, John SM, Canan-  
 daigua Composite Squadron  
 Miles, David 1Lt, Canan-  
 daigua Composite Squadron  
 Miller, Michael 2Lt, Canan-  
 daigua Composite Squadron  
 Stehling, William Capt,  
 Canandaigua Composite Squad.

#### **SYRACUSE AREA**

Conway, Timothy SM,  
 Syracuse Composite Squadron  
 Erskine, Kristopher 2Lt,  
 Syracuse Composite Squadron  
 Harris, Phillip 1Lt, Central  
 New York Group Staff  
 Lauricella, Richard SM, Central  
 New York Group Staff  
 Luebs, John 1Lt, Syracuse  
 Cadet Squadron  
 Main, Patricia 1Lt, Central  
 New York Group Staff  
 Newell, Peter 1Lt, Central  
 New York Group Staff  
 Phillips, Kenneth 1Lt,  
 Syracuse Cadet Squadron  
 Ruebsamen, Gary SM,  
 Syracuse Composite Squadron  
 Thomas, Rodney Capt,  
 Central New York Group

#### **FULTON AREA**

Attle, James 2Lt, Greater  
 Oswego Composite Squadron  
 Bullard, Fred, Jr. LtCol,  
 Greater Oswego Composite Sq.  
 Holdren, Earl III 1Lt, Greater

Oswego Composite Squadron  
 Lamay, Robert SM, Greater  
 Oswego Composite Squadron  
 Pomerleau, Roland 2Lt,  
 Greater Oswego Composite Sq.  
 Sussey, Francis Capt, Greater  
 Oswego Composite Squadron  
 Sussey, Grant SM, Greater  
 Oswego Composite Squadron  
 Zellar, Horace 1Lt, Greater  
 Oswego Composite Squadron

#### **UTICA AREA**

Paquette, Timothy SM, Utica  
 Composite Squadron  
 Stronach, Robert SM, New  
 York Wing Staff

#### **SCHENECTADY AREA**

Cornelius, Francis II 2Lt,  
 Schenectady Composite Squad.  
 Wallace, James 2Lt,  
 Schenectady Composite Squad.

#### **ONEONTA AREA**

Hewett, Judith 1Lt, Midway  
 Cadet Squadron  
 Smith, Kenneth 2Lt, Midway  
 Cadet Squadron

#### **BINGHAMTON AREA**

Lipski, Francis 2Lt, Broome-  
 Tioga Composite Squadron

#### **LITTLE VALLEY AREA**

Land, James SM, Southern  
 Tier Composite Squadron  
 Rinehart, Donald 2Lt,  
 Southern Tier Composite Squad  
 Steinbar, Daniel 2Lt, Southern  
 Tier Composite Squadron  
 Whipple, Shawn SM,  
 Southern Tier Composite Squad  
 Wilkins, Duane 1Lt, Southern  
 Tier Composite Squadron  
 Wilkins, Natalie 2Lt, Southern  
 Tier Composite Squadron



*A class of 53 for Squadron Leadership School*



# 11 Members Finish SLS at Aero Museum

Eleven men and women from across the Capital District graduated from Squadron Leadership School held March 15-16 at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum at Schenectady County Airport.

Officiating at the graduation was Col. Austyn W. Granville Jr., Wing commander. He congratulated graduates, telling them they “are well-poised and positioned for success in CAP.”

Noting that this was the third Squadron Leadership School held in the New York Wing, with “over 100 students” completing the course to date, Colonel Granville emphasized the need for well-trained volunteers in CAP’s evolving Homeland Security role as “the eyes of the home skies.”

Mid-Eastern Group, headed by Capt. Timothy Holteen, was host. Instructors came from Group, Wing and Northeast Region. Capt. Daniel Stouch was SLS director; Lt. Col. Anita Martin and Maj. Marylou Falco, assistant directors.

The graduates are:

- Capt. Jerry Broman, Vedder Composite Squadron, Albany.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Adam Candib, Vedder



*Instructor Maj. Lawrence Model (left), Catskill Mountain Group commander, shares a light moment with SLS students.*



*The aerospace education component of Squadron Leadership School was hands-on, with instructors and students learning how to make gliders out of cereal boxes (left) and then launching them (below left), all under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Al Hulstrunk (below), Northeast Region Deputy Chief of Staff for Aerospace Education.*



Composite Squadron.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jerrie Cummings, Kaydeross Composite Squadron, Ballston Spa.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Deborah Docherty, Kaydeross Composite Squadron.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Juan Duran, Vedder Composite Squadron.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Denise King, Vedder Composite Squad.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Linda Sheridan, Albany Senior Squadron.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sherle Slingerland, Vedder Composite Squadron.

- Senior Member Ronald Webb, Vedder Composite Squadron.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Marty Whited, Vedder Composite Squadron.

- Senior Member Warren Wildy, Kaydeross Composite Squadron.



**CHOCOLATE BOMBARDIERS**  
*NY Wing pilots Maj. Gerald Marketos and Lt. Col. Mike Tingelstad, in the cockpit of the DC-4 that was used to re-enact the Berlin Airlift.*

*BELOW: Major Marketos prepares to heft a box of mini-parachutes loaded with candy out the open window (bottom).*

## Wing Members Re-Enact Berlin Airlift, Raining Sweets on School Kids

*By Bob Stronach, NY Wing PAO*

Civil Air Patrol members helped to bring history to life in September by re-enacting the Berlin Airlift in a World War II-era DC-4. They dropped hundreds of mini-parachutes loaded with candy over a school just outside Syracuse.

Lt. Col. Myron Tingelstad, retired Air Force pilot and member of the Central NY Group's Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron, piloted the DC-4, and Maj. Gerald Marketos, Mohawk-Griffiss Squadron commander, acted as the "chocolate bombardier", as the plane flew low at 500 feet, with the drone of its four engines drowning out the cheers and

applause of hundreds of pupils, teachers and parents at Manlius Pebble Hill School.

Among those watching the 650 handkerchief-parachutes shoot out of the plane and float to the school's athletic field and tennis courts were retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen and children's author Margot Theis Raven. Raven's new book, "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot," chronicles how Halvorsen grabbed the hearts of both the American and German peoples when he found a way to rain chocolate, gum and other candies on the children of Berlin during the 1948-49 airlift to



save 2.2-million Berliners from Soviet Premier Josef Stalin's

blockade.

In 1948, when Stalin blockaded access to Berlin by land, British and American forces began a non-stop 15-month airlift to bring supplies to Berliners. During one trip, Halvorsen, then a lieutenant, hiked to the end of the airfield where he met a group of 30 children watching the planes land and take off from the other side of a fence. He started chatting with them, and was impressed by their attitude and fervor for freedom. As he was about to leave, he wanted to give them something. He found two sticks of gum in his pocket. He broke them into several pieces for a few to share, while the rest enjoyed smelling the sweet aroma from slivers of the wrappers. In that instant, Halvorsen relates, he saw the future of Germany before him, and he impulsively told the children he would return the next day and drop candy to them. At home base that night, he bought all



*"Berlin Airlift" crew in front of the World War II-era DC-4: Crew Chief Kelly Silcox, Pilot Myron Tingelstad, Co-Pilot Ralph Rushworth, and chocolate bombardier Maj. Gerald Marketos.*

the candy and gum he could, and experimented with parachutes made with handkerchiefs.

Fifty-four years later, Lt. Col. Tingelstad and co-pilot Ralph Rushworth, a retired Air Force major, aimed the DC-4 at the school barely visible in the distance, and prepared to wiggle the plane's wings just before dropping their load – because that's what Halvorsen had done to alert the German children that the "chocolate pilot" was approaching. Ground control helped guide the DC-4 to the drop zone, and gave the command, "Candy drop – NOW!" Major Marketos hefted a box of parachute treats to the open window, and they were sucked out in a flash. Across the aisle at the other open window, Crew Chief Kelly Silcox sent his load of treats soaring as well.

The DC-4, donated for the event by Aero Union Corp.,

circled for a second pass, dropping two more loads. The children below retrieved the chocolate and gum – except for a few parachutes that drifted to the school's roof.

In 1948 Americans responded to Halvorsen's impulsive act by supplying 250,000 candy-loaded parachutes, and more than 20 tons of chocolate and gum for Berlin's 100,000 children. Just like then, Americans responded to this modern-day re-enactment, with Wegmans supermarket donating candy, Dollar General providing handkerchiefs, and families assembling the parachute treats.

After the short hop back to the Oneida County Airport (home base for the DC-4 flying laboratory), Major Marketos said: "That's something we'll probably never get to do again in our lifetime — fly a piece of history."



***Berlin Chocolate Pilot Col. Gail Halvorsen, now 80, speaking at a dinner following the "Berlin Airlift" re-enactment.***

*Photo by Maj. Gerald Marketos*



# New York Wing in Action: Photo Portrait

Photo: Maj. Gerald Marketos



*NY Wing Cadets sound off with enthusiasm during the 2002 Encampment at Fort Drum.*

Photo: 1LT Bob Sironach



*The Utica, Syracuse and Greater Oswego Composite Squadrons helped out at the 2002 Utica Air Show at Oneida County Airport. Here C/MSgt. Martha Hampshire (Utica) helped to man the flight line with a row of World War II-era Canadian Havards behind her.*



## NATIONAL HONOREES

*Wing Commander Col. Austyn Granville Jr. congratulates two wing members who won top national honors in 2002 -- Senior Member of the Year Lt. Col. Diane Wojtowicz of Walworth, and Cadet of the Year C/Col. Jennifer Neville. Formerly with Rockland Cadet Squadron, Neville is now at the U.S. Air Force Academy.*

Photos: 1Lt Bruce Knight



## CHAMPIONS

*The Wing's Cadet Drill Team from the Finger Lakes Group (Rochester) are 2002 national champions and 2003 Northeast Region champs!*

